

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Naval Construction Bureau at Karlsborst

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1. Established in early 1946, a naval construction bureau in the Karlsborst enclave is called the "Baukonstruktionsbüro der SMA in der Marineabteilung der SMA-Karlsborst". Karlsborst is the site of the main office, to which admission is gained only by SMA pass. The personnel is distributed over several one-family houses; offices in liaison with this unit are located at Stralsund, Warnemünde, Potsdam and elsewhere in the Russian Zone. These are all laboratories or construction planning offices; no workshops or experimental stations are known.
2. In January 1946 some Soviet naval officers at Karlsborst located the former chief of Deutsche Industrie Norm (DIN), invited him to work for them, and solicited the names and addresses of his former colleagues. One of the latter was (now) Gobel, former DIN business manager, who signed an SMA contract and has been employed at Karlsborst since early 1946.
3. The activity of this naval construction group is concerned with high frequency, torpedo, warship, mine construction, and ship standardization. It takes no interest in merchant shipping. At the present time approximately seventy-five German specialists are employed; some twenty-five others were sent to the USSR in October 1946 and approximately five of these are now in Leningrad. Among those at Karlsborst are some professors from Berlin's Humboldt University. Also at Karlsborst are one Lithuanian and two Lettish civilian engineers, in addition to a large staff of Soviet technicians of officer rank. These are older men with first-class knowledge of their field. Relations between the Russian and German employees are good, although there is some measure of distrust. The work itself is hampered by bureaucratic procedures. Working hours are 0900 to 1800 hours, six days a week; the salary of at least one individual is RM 1200 per month, plus allocations of flour, sugar, and fat.

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4. The naval construction unit is to be reorganized and transferred to other buildings. Originally scheduled for 1 December 1947, the moving has been postponed to 1 January 1948. A new title will be assigned to the bureau, placing it in the "Handelsschiffahrt" category. German employees believe this is being done purely for camouflage and does not indicate any change in the nature of their work. Very little was accomplished during December, due to the contemplated transfer.

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